

Update on NS1 Guideline Revisions

CCC call

September 6, 2013

Draft document for internal discussion purposes only

Background

- May 2012 – NS1 Guidelines ANPR published.
- October 2012 – Comment period ended.
- December 2012 – NMFS NS1 Guidelines Workshop.
- May 2013 – MONF III conference.
- July 2013 to Present – Analysis of NS1 Themes & Issues



Future

- September 2013 – NAS Study on Rebuilding.
- Fall 2013 – Analysis & writing.
- Early 2014 – Pre-draft of proposed rule.
- September 2014 – Proposed rule.
- May 2015 – Final Rule.
- June 2015 – Technical Guidance Documents.

6 Themes

1. Stocks in need of conservation and management
2. Aligning science with management
3. Improving the stability of fisheries
4. Improving the performance of ACLs & AMs
5. Improving guide on rebuilding plans
6. Optimum Yield & EBFM



Stocks in Need of Conservation & Management

- Develop criteria for identifying whether stocks are in need of conservation and management.
- Considering:
 - Risk of species experiencing overfishing.
 - Adequacy of state and international management.
 - Importance to the ecosystem
 - etc.

Aligning Science with Management

- Describing appropriate methods to set ACLs and AMs.
- Stock assessments providing risk-neutral OFLs.
- Lack of credibility in data-poor methods and resulting perceptions.
- Socio-economic tradeoffs considerations in the development of ABC control rules.

Improving the Stability of Fisheries

- Considering new overfishing and overfished definitions.
- Using phase-in approaches to setting catch limits based on new scientific information.
- Using ABC control rules to prevent stocks from becoming overfished.

Improving the Performance of ACLs & AMs

- Alternatives when stock assessment projections of OFL are not available.
- Options for more flexible AMs.
- Effective use of carryover.



Improving Guidance on Rebuilding

- Consider introducing the term “depleted” when abundance is low but overfishing has not occurred.
- Consider new ways of defining rebuilding timelines.
- Provide guidance on evaluating and determining adequate progress.
- Consider findings of the NAS study on rebuilding.



Advancing OY & EBFM

- Provide guidance on specifying MSY and OY at an appropriate level.
 - Stock, stock complex, fishery, or system-level.
- Encourage re-evaluate MSY and OY on a regular basis.
- Consider if additional guidance is needed for forage fish species to maximize yield for the system overall or to improve ecosystem resiliency.